

Esther Pleading For Her People

Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 5, 1911
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT—Esther 4:1-6:3.
MEMORY VERSES—4:13, 14.
GOLDEN TEXT—"The Lord preserveth all them that love him."—Psa. 145:20.
TIME—Accession of Xerxes, B. C. 480. Xerxes conquers Egypt, 1st and 2d years, B. C. 485, 4. He prepares to invade Greece, 3d to 5th years, B. C. 484-481. Vashti deposed in his 1st year, B. C. 485. Invades Greece, B. C. 481. Defeated at Thermopylae and Salamis, B. C. 480. Esther becomes Queen, B. C. 479. Haman's plot and defeat by Esther (occupying nearly the whole year), B. C. 474.
PLACE—Shusian (Susa) the winter capital of the Persian Empire, about 200 miles southeast from Babylon and 125 miles north of the Persian Gulf.

There are two principal theories concerning the historical nature of the Book of Esther: one, that it is a veritable history; the other, that it is a historical romance founded on fact, like Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and Henry VIII, or like Scott's novels, or Homer's great epics. While there are a number of serious difficulties, yet there are few if any unanswerable arguments against its being a true history. Xerxes is the Greek shortened form of the Ahasuerus of Esther, as York, for instance, is a shortened form of the Latin Eboracum. He began to reign B. C. 485 and ruled for 20 years. We can best understand Esther by means of those parts of his history which reveal his character. Xerxes at the very beginning of his reign completed the conquest of Egypt which his father Darius had begun. On his return he immediately began to prepare for the invasion of Europe, and especially of Greece.

Xerxes sought a queen in place of the deposed Vashti. The one selected from the most beautiful women of the empire was Esther, a charming Jewess, a descendant of one of the exiles, her great-grandfather being among those carried captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in 598. Her Hebrew name was Hadassah, the myrtle, a beautiful and favorite shrub in the east. "Esther" means "a star," and many think it the same as Ishtar the Babylonian equivalent of Venus. She must have been quite young at the time of her marriage, not over 15 years. Four or five years pass, and then begins the tragic story of Haman, his rise as a king's favorite, his pride incensed at the conduct of Esther's cousin Mordecai, his attempt to bring vengeance upon the whole Jewish race on Mordecai's account, his success in obtaining a decree from the king throughout his empire, "to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish all Jews, both young and old, little children, and women, in one day."

Great mourning and terrible distress came upon the Jews all over the empire as they learned of the decree. Mordecai sent word to Esther, now about 20 years old, asking her to go to the king and request the deliverance of her people. Esther replied "Whosoever shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death. Except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden scepter." There was, therefore, a possibility of Esther's reaching the ears of the king, but with the greatest uncertainty as to how such a capricious king would act, especially as his love for her had cooled. The mission Mordecai committed to Esther was one of great danger and difficulty. It required the utmost heroism.

Esther put on her royal apparel. She was a sensible, practical woman, and used her beauty and charm of person and of dress to accomplish her object.

She waited for the fitting time. The king held out the golden scepter. The sign that he received her, and that the most dangerous part of her mission was over. Instead of asking her favor, where she would be surrounded by spies and possible enemies, she invited the king to a banquet in the seclusion of the Harem gardens. She invited Haman her enemy to join with the king and thus ward off all suspicion, and at the same time have him where he could not escape.

Esther presented her petition in wise words and pointed out Haman as the enemy who was seeking her life and the life of her people. The king was very angry and immediately deposed Haman, and had him hanged on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai.

The result was a counteracting decree, permitting the Jews to stand up in their own defense, and large numbers of their enemies were slain. The Jews were saved from destruction, and exalted before the people. Mordecai took Haman's place in the government. The feast of Purim was instituted with great feasting and joy, and has been celebrated annually ever since on the fourteenth of Adar, February-March, one month before Esther.

THREW PASTOR OUT WINDOW

FIGHT IN DENVER CHURCH BECOMES FREE-FOR-ALL.

Women Break for Open Air While Men Engage in Disgraceful Battle Over Preacher.

Denver.—The Rev. W. S. Rudolph is nursing various cuts and bruises, and a number of other members of the Union Presbyterian Church are using soothing lotions as a result of ten minutes of lively fistfights over church affairs. In the course of the fight the pastor was thrown through a window.

Dr. Rudolph with a number of his friends were sitting in the rear of the auditorium of the church while trustees and other church workers arraigned the pastor in severe terms for attempting to retain possession of the church after he had resigned from the board of governors.

Then a motion was carried to go into executive session in a room adjoining the church, and the pastor and his friends inferentially were invited to absent themselves.

Dr. Rudolph, however, led his cohorts around to a back door and entered the room. A fight immediately became general. Women in hysterics bolted into the open air while a dozen or more men punched at each other in grim and almost silent earnestness, several of them becoming engaged while attempting to act as peacemakers.

Dr. Rudolph and his church are prominent and the affair has caused a great stir throughout the city.

IS NOW "PRESIDENT" OF CHINA

General Li Yuen Heng Has Formally Announced Himself Ruler of New Republic.

Pekin, China.—Gen. Li Yuen Heng, leader of the rebel forces, has informed the foreign consuls at Hankow that he has been proclaimed "president of the Republic of China."

The foreign ministers here have exchanged communications with Li upon several subjects. They objected to his announcement that vessels carrying contraband of war would be subject to confiscation and also to his proposal to administer the custom revenues at the port of the Yang-Tse-Kiang and other cities when controlled by the revolutionists. This latter objection was based on the fact that revenues are pledged as security for foreign loans.

over to the British inspectors general of customs in China.

DEATH OF JOSEPH PULITZER

Proprietor of New York World and St. Louis Post-Dispatch Stricken by Heart Disease.

Charleston, South Carolina.—Joseph Pulitzer, proprietor of the New York World and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, died at 1:40 o'clock aboard his yacht, the Liberty, in Charleston harbor. The immediate cause of Mr. Pulitzer's death was heart disease. The funeral will be held at Woodlawn cemetery in New York probably toward the end of the week.

Mr. Pulitzer's yacht had been in Charleston harbor only six days. It was on the way to Jekyll Island, near Brunswick, Ga., where Mr. Pulitzer owned a summer home.

Joseph Pulitzer was a member of the legislature in Missouri in 1869, a little before he was 21 years old.

PUBLIC LAND NEARLY ALL GONE

Less Than Two Years Ago Missouri Had 20,000 Acres—1,340 Acres Now Remain.

Springfield, Missouri.—Though official records show that less than two years ago there was nearly 20,000 acres of government land in Missouri the books of the United States land office here show that only 1,340 acres now remain for settlement. A report just completed shows that only four counties of the state now have more than 100 acres of government land. These are Barry, 116; Miller, 160; Pulaski, 178, and Shannon, 128. Only 21 out of the 114 counties of the state have any land open to homestead or cash entry from the government.

Postal Bank for Atchison.

Atchison, Kansas.—Atchison is to have a postoffice savings bank. It will be installed in the local post office immediately. J. W. Carr, postal inspector, has been in Atchison for two days instructing Scott Jones, who will be the cashier of the new bank. Deposits will be received through the registry window.

MISSOURI STATE NEWS

Kansas City Theaters.

During the week beginning Monday, November 6, the Shuberts will present August Thomas' new play, "As a Man Thinks," with John Mason as the star and supported by the entire cast from the Thirty-ninth Street theater, New York. The play comes direct from a successful season of 18 months in New York.

"The Campus," Walter De Leon's delightful musical comedy of college life, will be at the Grand during the week beginning Sunday, November 5. It will be presented by a company of 50, headed by the young author himself, and pretty Miss "Muggins" Davies. A complete scenic production is provided and the comedy is exquisitely costumed.

Farm Still Public Domain.

Officials of the United States land office at Springfield, have discovered that Cat Island, a tract of 440 acres in Andrew county, is still open to settlement, though residents have lived there and cultivated farms for 22 years. John Malley thought his title was perfect, but the officials looked over the government plats and found that no transfer of land on the island had ever been made. They had written to the general land office in Washington for instructions. Cat Island is worth about \$30,000.

Plenty of Game in Ozarks.

Fishing and hunting in the Ozarks this season is better than for many years, according to reports received from counties south of Springfield. Quail and other small game are abundant, the season having been favorable to their propagation. Large flocks of wild turkeys can be found in the hilly country, the number of young ones being unusually large this year. Few deer have been seen but are said to be plentiful in the wildest parts of Taney and Oregon counties.

Acted as His Own Sleuth.

When A. J. Solomon, a merchant at Pine Bluff, Ark., suspected that one of his employees had embezzled about \$206 worth of silks he went to the sheriff and secured a commission as a deputy. Then he did his own sleuth work. He trailed Moses Roshan, a Syrian, to Springfield and caused his arrest. The prisoner was turned over to Solomon, together with a quantity of the goods.

William Gallagher, arrested on a farm near St. Joseph on suspicion of being the man wanted in Worcester, Mass., for stealing postoffice money orders and forging signatures was identified by Postoffice Inspector Owens of Boston, and will be returned to Worcester for trial.

Sedalia Strikers Still Out.

There has been no break in the ranks of the 500 striking carmen of the M. K. & T. railroad shops at Sedalia, notwithstanding the fact that they were given the ultimatum that they must return to work or consider themselves permanently out of the service.

Safe Blowers at Foster.

Burglars entered the Bank of Walnut at Foster, blew the safe and escaped with \$3,200 and a leather case containing \$35,000 worth of notes. It is supposed they thought the case contained currency. The safe was in a vault which was completely wrecked.

Fire Destroys Bank Building.

Fire destroyed the Farmers' State Bank of Greenfield and did considerable damage to other buildings. The loss is estimated at \$3,000.

Car Shortage Closes Plant.

The American Cressington company has been forced to close its plant at Springfield owing to a shortage of railroad cars for transportation of ties. The company treats ties for several different railroads.

Burned a \$2,000 Motor Car.

A fire destroyed the \$2,000 motor car of John Chadwick, jr., son of Mayor Chadwick of Montgomery. His residence was saved after considerable damage was done.

Children Hear Dairy Lecture.

School was dismissed at Horine, so 40 children could hear the talks by the lecturers on the special train of the State Dairy commission, which is running over the Frisco lines in Southwest Missouri.

Consumption Victim Dies on Train.

Mrs. C. M. Nash, 25 years old, died on a Frisco passenger train at Ash Grove of consumption. She was being taken from Horwood, Mo., to relatives in Kansas City.

CANADA'S IMMENSE WHEAT FIELDS

THE ATTRACTION FOR THREE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILWAYS.

Last August there visited the Canadian west the vice-president of the largest individual hardware company in the United States. As his firm have a turnover of millions, and deals extensively with farm implements, this man took a deep interest in crop conditions in Canada, and on his return he embodied his findings in an article for the Hardware Reporter. This article should be of special interest to farmers.

The writer speaks of the importance of the spring wheat crop of Western Canada. He might also have spoken of the importance of the oat crop and also of the winter wheat crop, as well as barley. Winter wheat during the past few years has been a great success, and experiments have shown that it can be grown with success in almost any portion of the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. But apart from this, the spring wheat crop is the one generally grown, and all who know anything of grain, anyone who has had anything to do with markets, knows or has heard of the high character of this cereal and the splendid yields that are annually produced. Reproducing from this article:—

"In a land of such great sweep, and of such difference in soil and climate, there are many resources, but none are at present of the same overwhelming importance as the spring wheat crop. In the interminable prairie stretches of the northwest provinces it is the one absorbing topic of interest and of conversation during its growing and its harvesting, for upon its success or failure hangs the weal or woe of a large part of the Dominion. Its influence has been felt into the United States, drawing thousands of farmers northwards with the lure of cheap lands, but likewise beyond the great lakes, even to the easy going maritime provinces, calling the flower of their young men to its opportunities. Development in these prairie provinces goes on at high pressure for everything hangs on the outcome of spring wheat. Success has emboldened the raisers of this one all-important crop, and each year there is further incursion into those northern fields that only a short time ago were regarded as Arctic wastes. The Canadian Northwest seems to be one of those modern agricultural examples set forth to drive the final nail in the coffin of that ancient Malthusian delusion that population tends to outrun the means of subsistence, since the

omists is as to the danger of overstocking the wheat market. Only about two and one-half per cent of possible arable lands in the northwest provinces is now under cultivation, and this year the crop promises to be close to 200,000,000 bushels, so that your imagination and your arithmetic can easily supply the answer as to the possible or even probable outcome."

During the months of July and August the weather was unfavourable and the production of a 200 million yield of wheat will not likely be realized, but even with this, the threshing reports coming to hand show that the crop will be a splendidly paying one.

More English Humor.

The first night Walter Kelly, known to vaudeville as the "Virginia Judge," walked up the Strand he complained to his English companion that the famous street in London was dark at nine o'clock. "Why," said he, "at this hour Broadway is as bright as day. There is one sign alone, 'The Chariot Race,' in which there are 50,000 electric lights." "But I say, old top," said his English friend, "ous?"

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